

Wyton on the Hill Parish Council

Parish Clerk – Ms Nykki Webber, 2 Anderson Drive, St Ives, Cambs. PE27 6AF
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A meeting of Wyton on the Hill Parish Council was held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.00pm at: Wyton on the Hill Primary School. Wyton on the Hill. Cambs.

Present: Councillor Mark Looker (Chair), Councillor David Keane, Councillor Lucy Pammenter and Councillor Martin Gill.

In Attendance: Ms. N. Webber (Clerk), Tony Savage (Caretaker).

MINUTES

350-03/26 Councillor Looker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

351-03/26 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies have been received from Councillor Bladen as she is working nights.

Councillor Looker proposed acceptance of these apologies, and this was seconded by Councillor Pammenter.

Apologies have been received from Councillor Waclawj as she had a prior family engagement.

Councillor Looker proposed acceptance of these apologies, and this was seconded by Councillor Gill.

Apologies have been received from Councillor Saddler as he was on annual leave.

Councillor Looker proposed acceptance of these apologies, and this was seconded by Councillor Gill.

352-03/26 To receive declarations of interest.

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Wyton on the Hill Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011. There were no declarations of interest.

353-03/26 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th February 2025.

The minutes of the meeting of Wyton on the Hill Parish Council held on 10th February 2026 had been circulated in advance following their informal approval by Councillor Keane (as the Chair has not attended the February meeting). Councillor Keane proposed acceptance of the minutes and Councillor Gill seconded the proposal. All were in favour, and it was resolved to accept the minutes. Councillor Keane signed the minutes.

354-03/26 Public participation.

To allow up to 10 minutes (2 minutes per person) for any members of the public and councillors declaring the existence and nature of a prejudicial interest to address the meeting in relation to the business on this agenda. No members of the public attended the meeting.

355-03/26 Matters arising or carried forward from the previous meeting:

- Huntingdonshire Neighbourhood Watch Association
Paul Simpson sent in a report on Paul Simpson sent in a report for the NWA – they have received confirmation of support from camp and are looking forward to building joint efforts for service families on the estate. The Huntingdonshire Community Policing team are holding an online meeting tonight (10th March) for residents to meet their local policing team virtually and hear what they have been working on in the area and for residents to ask any questions and raise any concerns. The local community policing team priorities for December – Mar included working with partners to address concerns in WOTH and knife crime across the district. Due to a fault with an underground cable some residents lost mains electricity for a few hours. UK Power networks responded very quickly and the impact was very small. It demonstrates our reliance on constant power supply which in the modern world we can now not always take for granted. WOTH NWA have shared some advice but residents should consider their own individual contingency plans in the event of longer outages.

- SID Update and purchase of posts update – the clerk has received an approximate cost of £3,330.19 for the installation of the SID post and has agreed with CCC to proceed. She is now waiting on a date.
- Election 2026 – The clerk handed our nomination forms to all Councillors who attended the meeting and will get the rest of the forms to those councillors who could not attend. Councillor Looker passed his signed forms to the clerk to hand in to HDC in his absence.
- Bobby and a brew update – the clerk is to put out a poll on social media to see which days would be more popular to host this and then check with the school and PC Caruana that these are suitable. Days to be agreed at the April meeting.
- School Hire Costs – the clerk had an email from the school regarding an increase to the hourly rate for the hire of the room for the monthly meetings from £18 per hour to £20 per hour. The Parish Council work very closely with the school and understand the situation they are currently in. It was proposed to accept these new charges by Councillor Keane and this was seconded by Councillor Gill. All were in favour and it was agreed to accept the new hourly rate.
- Easter activities – A MOP had emailed in some ideas for easter competitions on the estate. The council decided on an Easter House decoration competition with vouchers from a local garden centre for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Councillor Keane proposed this and to spend £60 on vouchers and it was seconded by Councillor Looker – the clerk will make a social media post to advertise the competition.

356-03/26 To discuss any updates for events and activities on Station.

Gill Angel was unable to attend the meeting but sent an email to the clerk to say that there was nothing much to report from station other than they are confirming whether the Neighbourhood Watch Association can attach their signs to the lamp posts.

357-03/26 To receive an update from the Estate Caretaker.

Tony Savage attended the meeting and reported that all is ok but there is a large pothole as you enter the estate. This was apparently being filled in on the evening of the meeting. Councillor Keane urged people to report potholes via this link [Report a highways fault | Cambridgeshire County Council](#). People are still not picking up dog poo again around the estate. The clerk will put a reminder on social media. Councillor Pammenter commented how a MOP praised how often our bins were emptied and how tidy the estate looked so thanks were extended to our caretaker.

358-03/26 To receive an update from the local District Councillor/s on matters at HDC.

Councillor Keane reported the following:

HDC Council Meetings

Employment Committee – 11 February

The main item considered was the regular workforce report, which provided an update on staffing levels, recruitment activity, employee turnover, sickness absence and the use of agency or temporary staff across the authority. Members reviewed trends in workforce data including both short-term and long-term sickness absence, staff retention and recruitment challenges in specialist roles. Attention was given to areas where vacancies can be difficult to fill, reflecting wider pressures across local government in professions such as planning, ICT and technical services. The committee also considered the Council's ongoing work to support employee wellbeing and organisational culture, including management training, occupational health support and initiatives designed to improve staff engagement and early intervention where issues arise. Members discussed the importance of maintaining a stable and motivated workforce at a time when the local government sector continues to face labour market pressures and increasing competition for specialist staff. The committee noted the reports presented, acknowledged the ongoing work being undertaken by officers to strengthen workforce resilience and governance, and emphasised the importance of continuing to monitor workforce trends to ensure the Council remains well placed to deliver its services and strategic priorities as we move into the Local Government Reorganisation process. <https://www.youtube.com/live/qPBY3ika-Hg?si=DYS2HHTTnQWSOLi>

Full Council – 25 February

The meeting began with the presentation of the Pause the Plan petition, which originated in Houghton & Wyton but attracted nearly 900 signatures from residents across a wide number of neighbouring parishes and towns. The petition asked the Council to consider pausing progress on the Local Plan to allow further scrutiny of issues such as infrastructure capacity, viability and the spatial distribution of development before moving to the next stage of the statutory planning process.

In my contribution I focused on governance and examination risk, which helped highlight that once the Local Plan moves from the current Regulation 18 stage to Regulation 19 the scope to make significant changes becomes more limited. The Portfolio Holder indicated that a written response will follow the verbal update given at the meeting, which acknowledged the good work of the petition but confirmed that the current intention is to continue progressing the plan.

The other major item of business was the District Council's budget for 2026/27, which was approved following debate. As part of the budget, Huntingdonshire's share of Council Tax for a Band D property will increase by £5 per year, bringing the district council element to £170.86 annually. This equates to just over £3.28 per week for the services provided by Huntingdonshire District Council. The council's financial plan includes continued investment in a number of capital projects across the district, including improvements to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and plans for a new Health and Sports Hub at the current One Leisure Huntingdon site.

The budget also includes preparation for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, ensuring the council is financially and operationally ready for potential structural changes while continuing to deliver services to residents.

Separately, following members changing party affiliations, a recalibration of proportional representation across committees has taken place. As a result, I have also been appointed to the Development Management Committee (DMC). <https://www.youtube.com/live/gfkJtg1DKxA?si=nJPuOxtwcQQx0W8i>

Other Key Activity

Government Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation

The District Council and most political groups are supporting and promoting Option E – a Unitary Huntingdonshire Authority. Residents are encouraged to respond to the Government consultation before 23:59 on Thursday 26 March 2026. The Government will make the final decision on which option is selected, with an announcement expected in the summer. <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-democracy/meetings-and-decision-making/local-government-reorganisation/>

Response to Planning Application – 25/00616/OUT

I have been working with Wyton on the Hill and Houghton & Wyton Parish Councils, along with St Ives County Councillors, to raise awareness of the application and highlight the need for a detailed review of the developer's transport evidence and revisions to the Transport Assessment prepared in support of the current proposal.

This work examines trip generation, modelling assumptions and the capacity of key junctions on the A1123 Houghton Road corridor, which already serves several recently completed developments. In particular, with the A141 / St Ives improvement scheme, my focus has been on whether the cumulative scale of development across the allocation is being properly reflected in the supporting evidence and whether assumptions about mitigation and transport improvements remain robust.

Where appropriate, I have helped draft correspondence and public commentary that raises these issues in a constructive way, highlighting areas where further clarification may be required while avoiding predetermination and recognising that statutory consultees and the planning authority will ultimately determine the application.

News Updates

Planning Permission Approved for Huntingdon Sport and Health Hub –

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/planning-permission-approved-for-huntingdon-sport-and-health-hub/>

Food Waste Caddies Are Coming – Huntingdonshire will introduce separate food waste collections in 2026. Residents will receive a 7-litre indoor caddy, a 23-litre outdoor caddy and a communal option for flats. Rollout begins ahead of the March 2026 collection start. <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/food-waste/>

Council Tax Premiums on Long-Term Empty Homes – From April 2026 increased premiums will apply: 100% after 1 year, 200% after 5 years and 300% after 10 years. <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-tax/discounts-exemptions-disregards-and-premiums/>

£750,000 Community Health and Wealth Building Fund – HDC has launched a fund to support projects that improve health outcomes, strengthen community connection and support local economic resilience. <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/huntingdonshire-launches-750-000-community-health-and-wealth-building-fund-following-successful-pilot>

Garden Waste Subscription Renewal – Subscriptions for the 2026–2027 garden waste service remains £57.50 per bin, with £30 for additional bins. Residents are encouraged to renew early to ensure uninterrupted service. <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/garden-waste-subscription-service/>

359-03/26 Notification of planning items:

25/00616/OUT – Land East of Houghton Hill Farm

Councillor Keane reported that the transport assessment has come back and there are still aspects that need to be clarified (see 358-03/26)

360-03/26 Finance

360-03/26.2 To approve accounts for payment: 10th March 2026

Date	Ref. No.	Payee	Description	Amount
10/03/26	16153735	HMRC	PAYE (Month 11)	£213.19
10/03/26	379936389	Mr A Savage	Caretaker Services (Feb 2025)	£271.32
10/03/26	379936389	Mr A Savage	Caretaker mileage expenses – Feb 2025	£9.00
10/03/26	164913446	Ms N Webber	Parish Clerk/RFO Services. 30 hours, Feb 2025	£475.50
10/03/26	164913446	Ms N Webber	Working from home allowance and expenses Feb 25	£26.00
10/03/26	125911922	Enviroplantcare	Maintenance of the front of the estate – Feb 2025	£110.00
10/03/26	632086415	CCC	February Stay and Play	£135.00
10/03/26	293523044	CAPALC	Councillor Training	£225.00
10/03/26	77814842	Viking	Caretaker consumables	£61.10

361-03/26 Finance

361-03/26.1 To approve accounts to be paid on 10th March 2026

The Chair approved and signed the invoices.

Balance on accounts:

Current: £4,779,71

Instant: £40,514.50

Payments to go out of current account: £1,526.11

361-03/26.2 To note any income received: None was received

361-03/26.3 To authorise bank reconciliations dated 10th March 2026

Councillor Looker approved and signed the bank reconciliations for the above.

Councillor Gill has looked through the last 6 months bank reconciliations and payments and counter signed them as per the requirement in the audit last year (230-06/25.1).

362-03/26 Personnel matters

362-03/26.1 To receive an update from Ms Webber (Clerk).

The clerk has been contacted by CAPALC to see if they can offer internal audit services this year @ £40 per hour. The clerk has received a quote from Helen Symmons who did the 2024/25 audit which is £225.00.

The clerk was very happy with the audit last year and asked the council who they would prefer for this year. Councillor Keane proposed we stay with Help Symmons and this was seconded by Councillor Pammenter. All were in favour and it was agreed to appoint Helen Symmons again – the clerk will contact her and let CAPALC know they will not be in need of their services this year.

The insurance quotation has come in at £489.06 which is an increase of £1.83 on last year. Councillor Looker proposed we accept this quotation and this was seconded by Councillor Gill. All were in favour and it was agreed for the clerk to contact the insurance company to renew the policy.

The stay and play figures for February were:

Date	Adults	Children	Total
4/2/26	5	7	12
11/2/26	2	3	5
18/2/26	No Group	Half Term	
25/2/26	3	4	7
Total	10	14	24

363-03/26

Correspondence and Communications

An email has been received from Cambs Police regarding an online community meeting tonight at 7pm.
 An email has been received from NALC re Make a Change – this is a promo pack reference the elections
 An email has been received from Cambs Families Info Services – a poster and information
 An email has been received HDC confirming the precept of £23,625, Tax base 445.20, Band D Charge = £53.07 payment will be made on 30 April 2026.
 An email has been received from HAY Website – How are you Hunts – this is café and community news.

364-03/26

To receive verbal reports from Parish Councillors on matters arising.

No decisions can be made under this item.

365-03/26

Matters for future consideration.

No decisions can be made under this item.

The clerk will try and add more councillors to the social media pages so they can post things as well.

366-03/26

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th April 2026

Close of meeting 20.14